

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 242943

53

ORIGIN H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 FS-01 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY H:NMCDONNELL/ELKRIZEK:NM

APPROVED BY H:ELKRIZEK

BF/FS:GRECACHINAS (SUBS)

EUR/EX:RMASON (SUBS)

EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS (INFO)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

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STAFFDEL TO EASTERN EUROPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL TO EASTERN EUROPE

REF: MOSCOW 15286

1. SECTION 502(B) OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY ACT OF 1954 UNDER WHICH CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL IS AUTHORIZED REQUIRES THAT LOCAL CURRENCIES ONLY (19FT510 FUNDS) BE DISBURSED TO TRAVELLER. AS 19FT510 FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN MOSCOW IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO DISBURSE FUNDS TO STAFFDEL BEFORE THEIR ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY. THIS IS STANDARD PROCEDURE WHICH HAS BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE PAST AND HAS WORKED SATISFACTORILY. SUBBEST EMBASSY DISBURSING OFFICER CHECH HIS RECORDS ON CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL.

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PAGE 02 STATE 242943

2. RE HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS: IT HAS BEEN DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT WHEN TRAVELLERS GO TO USSR THEIR HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE AND PAID FOR IN ADVANCE UNLESS (A) THEY ARE INVITED GUESTS OF THE USSR GOVT OR (B) THEY ARE GOING ON ASSIGNMENT TO US EMBASSY. AS NEITHER OF THESE EXCEPTIONS APPLY TO THIS STAFFDEL, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE

BY STAFF MEMBERS THROUGH INTOURIST AND HAVE BEEN PAID FOR IN LOCAL CURRENCY). STAFFDEL MEMBERS WILL HAVE WITH THEM PRE-PAID VOUCHERS WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN MOSCOW.

3. IF DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDING OF USSR GOVT REGULATIONS AS THEY EXIST TODAY IS INCORRECT, PLEASE ADVISE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE242943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NMCDONNELL/ELKRIZEK:NM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760368-1245
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976091/aaaaaasu.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 15286
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAFFDEL TO EASTERN EUROPE
TAGS: OREP, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006